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MARCH 23, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SOUTH LAWN

10:21 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Secretary, it is a great privilege for me to welcome you back on an extraordinarily difficult mission on behalf of the United States and the problems that are in the Middle East.

I know that you made a maximum effort. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond our control, it did not turn out the way we wanted it.

But let me say, the United States will continue to emphasize our desire to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East by working with one country, other countries, and all countries.

It is in the national, as well as in the international, interest that we do everything we can with the emphasis on peace. Although we have, on a temporary basis hopefully, not achieved all that we had desired, I continue to be an optimist, that the good judgment and the wise decisions of all parties will result in the ultimate objective of peace in the Middle East and its ramifications on a worldwide basis.

Henry, would you like to add anything?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Mr. President, I very much appreciate your greeting me here as you sent me off from here.

The necessities that produced the mission continue and the need for a lasting peace in the Middle East remains.

As the President pointed out, the United States remains ready to work with the parties, and other interested countries, to promote a peace of justice in the Middle East.

Thank you.

END

(AT 10:24 P.M. EDT)